

THE

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Field Notes and Observations

WESTERN TANAGERS: A pair of Western Tanagers has nested at my two acre residence and bird preserve in the heart of Napa for some years. This year we had two nests: one was at the old site, about twenty feet high in a string of ivy hanging from an oak; the other was less than 200 feet away, a trifle higher in another oak. It is noteworthy that no other migrant, so far as I know, has had two pairs nesting at the same time on the place.

Mrs. Bickford noticed a young Tanager this summer following a Song Sparrow and begging food. The young bird was strong in flight, persistent and importunate. The Song Sparrow devoted itself to feeding the Tanager for several weeks, until they passed out of our picture. E. L. Bickford, Napa, California, October 21st, 1929.

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Six Black Turnstones and five Black Oyster-catchers were seen at Tomales Point on October 13th. They were all feeding on the rock reefs that jut out here from the sandy shore.

A White-tailed Kite has been observed on three October field trips on the marsh between Olema and the head of Tomales Bay. This is, I believe, a more westerly location than any so far reported for this Kite. Herman de Fremery, October 29th, 1929.

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PELICANS: White Pelicans are rather unusual on the sea-coast. Hence it may be of interest to note that a score of them were seen on Bird Island, off Tomales Point, on October 13th, 1929. Many more, in several flocks, were encountered flying down the coast—perhaps on their way to Drake's Estero, where these birds are frequently to be seen in winter.

Several questions come to mind: Do these White Pelicans ever fish in the open ocean (none seen on this visit), or do they all repair to Drake's Estero for feeding? Do the birds seen at the Estero spend the night on the sand-spit, or do they all roost on Bird Island? Do they take a short-cut across the peninsula, or do they follow the coast line all the way around by Point Reyes?

Brown Pelicans, it has often been noted, plunge for their prey invariably facing down-wind, and come to the surface up-wind. The explanation has been that the following wind helped them to tip to the vertical before diving, and that they came up facing the wind in order to be in the best position for a quick rise from the water, if need be. The California Brown Pelicans seen off Bird Island were observed to alight on the water also facing down-wind, and then to make an instantaneous turn about on the surface and face up-wind. Do White Pelicans alight on the water in the same curious way? Herman de Fremery, November 5th, 1929.

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"Part of the Big Game spectacle that most people missed, I presume, were a flock of eighteen Pipits or so and a Killdeer. The Killdeer circled about between the first two quarters and I missed an entire play watching him settle to the ground twice beyond the southern goal posts. The Pipits were on the field when I arrived and stayed through the entire maneuvering of the U. C. Band and part of the time while the Stanford Band and players were on the field. One Pipit stood its ground not twenty-five feet from the Stanford Band as it paraded by in full blast 110 strong." Quoted from a letter by F. M. Jencks. Oakland, California, November 29th, 1929.

"The Gull"

The recent vote taken to determine the future status of THE GULL proved that a majority favor a monthly publication. The total vote received was seventy-nine, seventy for a monthly and nine for a quarterly.

The interest in and appreciation of THE GULL as indicated by the many comments returned with ballots was very gratifying. In several instances words of encouragement and praise were received from persons who rank high in the scientific world.

Limited space does not permit the printing of all these expressions, but a few representative of the general tone are as follows:

"By all means continue monthly publication." Dr. H. C. Bryant.

"I find that as a newsletter THE GULL is a decided help as is. If it were changed to a quarterly, I would not get word in time to keep up with your program and progress. The quarterly field is crowded with magazines now." Joseph Dixon, Economic Mammalogist, University of California, Berkeley.

"I should regret to see this publication changed to a quarterly. It is chiefly useful as a place for publishing brief notes of current occurrences. If it is changed to a quarterly that purpose would be destroyed." Dr. Barton Warren Evermann, Director California Academy of Science.

"Through THE GULL published monthly, the entire membership is informed of what is going on. Non-attending members know that they belong to a live organization. If THE GULL were dropped or changed to a quarterly I believe the organization would suffer a loss of members. THE GULL is a credit to the society." J. S. Hunter, Bureau of Game Refuges, Fish and Game Commission.

"It would be a great mistake to change THE GULL to a quarterly issue. At present it serves a very useful function in keeping us advised of the activities of the Association and its members. This news value would be lost if changed to a quarterly. I trust it may be possible to maintain the periodical in its present status. THE GULL has an enviable record for its eleven years of life in having appeared regularly in the month for which it was scheduled, a virtue not possessed by many small bird periodicals. There are already other channels through which longer articles may be reported but the service afforded by THE GULL is scarcely provided by any of these others." Tracy I. Storer, Associate Professor of Zoology, University of California, Davis, California.

"Scientist gets news in time to be of value. GULL not competing with more technical quarterlies. Holds interest right along even if individual misses meetings and walks." George M. Wright, Berkeley.

"THE GULL furnishes much of the material for reports made to Bird-Lore. A quarterly would not fit in with bi-monthly reports." Amelia S. Allen, Editor of "The Season" for San Francisco Region.

"If changed to a quarterly much of the information would be out of date when received by the reader." Chas. W. Richmond, National Museum, Washington, D. C.

"I greet THE GULL each month with enthusiasm, often finding articles in it which I am glad to reprint with credit in the Bulletin of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. I hope you can continue it as a monthly." Winthrop Packard, Secretary-Treasurer of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, Boston, Mass.

"Strongly advocate retention as a monthly as more effective in keeping up interest of members. Personally am much interested in the monthly reports of field trips." T. S. Palmer, Secretary American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D. C.

"I trust you will keep it as a monthly—otherwise it would mark a step backward. Let us on the contrary aim to progress." C. B. Lastreto, Paris, France.

Audubon Notes

JANUARY (13th annual) MEETING: The meeting will be held on Thursday evening, the 9th, at 8 P. M. in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Room 19, 2nd Floor Ferry Building.

Annual reports will be presented and officers and directors elected for the coming year.

Dr. Harold C. Bryant, Division of Fish and Game, will speak informally of a visit with some Eastern Ornithologists and their institutions.

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JANUARY FIELD TRIP will be the usual trip to the wild waterfowl sanctuary at Lake Merritt, Oakland, on Sunday the 12th. San Francisco members will take Key Route Boat at 9 A. M. and the Grand Avenue car on the Twenty-second Street train from the mole, leaving the car at Grand Avenue and Perkins Street, where the party will form at 9:45 A. M. and proceed to the enclosure on the nearby lake shore, to witness the feeding of the wild fowl at 10 A. M.

East Bay members will transfer from any traction main line to Grand Avenue or Lakeshore Avenue cars, which will take them to the above mentioned point.

The main object of the trip is to study waterfowl, but some incidental land birds are always found.

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1930 DUES. The annual dues for the year of 1930 are now payable and the members are requested to make their remittances to the Treasurer as soon as possible.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE DECEMBER MEETING: The 155th regular meeting of the Association was held Thursday evening, December 12th, 1929, at 8 P. M. in the Board Room of the Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, San Francisco, with twenty-nine present. Mrs. G. E. Kelly, 1st Vice President, presiding.

Minutes of the regular meeting of November 14th, 1929, were read and accepted.

Minutes of the Directors' meeting of November 14th were read.

Result of the voting concerning **THE GULL** publication was presented by Mrs. Stephens. Letters and comments from the following were read:

Dr. H. C. Bryant; Dr. Barton Warren Evermann, Director California Academy of Science; Dr. Tracy I. Storer, Associate Professor of Zoology, University of California; Dr. E. Goodman, San Francisco; Dr. T. S. Palmer, Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.; Messrs. E. L. Bickford, Napa; H. W. Carriger, Oakland; Joseph Dixon, University of California; J. S. Hunter, Fish and Game Commission; H. S. Swarth, California Academy of Science; C. B. Lastreto, San Francisco; Joseph Mailiard, California Academy of Science; Geo. M. Wright, Berkeley; Chas. W. Richmond, National Museum, Washington, D. C.; Winthrop Packard, Boston, Mass.; O. W. Bauer, Chico; S. M. Haslett and Joseph J. Webb, San Francisco; Mrs. Amelia S. Allen, Berkeley; Mrs. M. Fowler, Oakland; Mrs. Mabel Pierce Thompson, Riverside; Misses Lorient Lamoureux, Castile, N. Y.; Pringle and Selmer Werner, San Francisco.

Announcements were made by the Secretary of the following new books:

Vol. III "Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States," by Forbush, Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Price \$5.00.

"Nature Narratives," Vol. I, Austin Clark, Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Md. Price \$1.00.

Seattle Audubon Society, "Check List of North American Birds for Seattle and Vicinity," at 5c per copy.

Report of the State Bird Campaign showing Valley Quail leading, followed by Western Bluebird and Anna Hummingbird, was made by Mr. Cain.

Messrs. Smith and Lockerbie and Miss Pettit were appointed as a nominating committee for the selection of officers for 1930, to be voted upon at the January meeting.

Field Observations were made as follows:

Mrs. Stephens: November 16th, Chain of Lakes, 16 Baldpate, 7 Ring-necked Ducks; December 1st, North Lake, American Bittern; on Spreckels Lake, November 16th, Canvas-back Ducks, 130; December 1st, 250, and December 6th, 287.

Mr. Lockerbie: November 28th, Marina and Fort Point, Short-billed and Bonaparte Gulls; December 8th, Mountain Lake, Presidio, Green-winged Teal; Baker's Beach, Surf Birds, Black Turnstones, Ring- and Short-billed Gulls.

THE GULL

Mr. Jencks reported the birds observed in his garden in Oakland, among which on November 30th, was a Saw-whet Owl and December 8th, a Black-throated Gray Warbler.

Mr. de Fremery spoke concerning the Gulls on Claremont Golf Club grounds.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. Chas. A. Bryant, who related his vacation experiences in October through the territory which included San Diego, Yuma, Palm Springs and Catalina Island.

The Board of Directors met shortly after the regular meeting and accepted the resignations of Mr. H. C. Cantelow, who has moved to Seattle, and Miss Emma C. Schultz.

The Board also voted \$15.00 as a Christmas gift to the janitor.

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A postal received from F. M. Jencks relates that the above mentioned Black-throated Gray Warbler was again seen on December 17th, in a very favorable position, on some vines just outside the study window of Mr. P. W. Kloss, his neighbor.—EDITOR.

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DECEMBER FIELD TRIP. The regular monthly trip of the Association was taken on Sunday, December 15th, to the University of California campus.

The very rainy weather did not keep the birds from appearing, even though only five Association members were out to see them. The members proved veritable weather prophets, for between nine and twelve and again between one and two there were longer and shorter intervals when it didn't pour. Refuge from the noon deluge was taken at first

to the Greek Theatre stage, then hopefully to the Stadium arches, which, however, proved to be *verboden*. Lunch was eaten finally in a wooden portable box office.

On the Bay eight varieties of birds were seen, and on the campus, including Strawberry Cañon, twenty-nine varieties. Both Jays were found, and three Thrushes, the Varied in addition to the Dwarf Hermit and the Robin. Townsend Warblers were numerous, much more so than Audubons. The one bird not commonly on our lists was the Winter Wren.

Birds observed were: On San Francisco Bay: Farallon double-crested cormorant; white-winged and surf scoters; glaucous-winged, northern western, California and Bonaparte gulls; western belted kingfisher along Key Route Pier.

Campus and Strawberry Cañon: Sharp-shinned and desert sparrow hawks; Anna hummingbird; Monterey red-shafted flicker; willow downy woodpecker; black phoebe; southern coast Stellar and southern California jays; California plain titmouse; Pacific Coast bush-tit; intermediate wren-tit; western winter and Vigors Bewick wrens; western robin; coast varied and dwarf hermit thrushes; western ruby-crowned kinglet; Pacific Audubon and Townsend warblers; California Brewer blackbird; English house sparrow; California linnet; green-backed Arkansas goldfinch; San Francisco spotted and brown towhees; Fox sparrow; junco; Nuttall white-crowned and song sparrows. Thirty-seven species.

Members in attendance: Mr. and Mrs. Stephens, Messrs. Bryant, Jencks, Lockerbie. Leader and historian, F. M. Jencks.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

President.....	Bert Harwell.....	2626 Haste St., Berkeley
Recording Secretary.....	Mrs. Bessie W. Kibbe.....	Room 510, Russ Bldg., San Francisco
Corresponding Secretary.....	C. B. Lastreto.....	260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....	Mrs. A. B. Stephens.....	1695 Filbert St., San Francisco

Meets second Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, Second Floor, Room 19.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A. B. Stephens, 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco
Subscription to Bulletin alone, 75c per year. Single copies, 15 cents.
Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year.

Additional active members in the same household and under the same support, \$2.00 per year.
Life membership, \$50.00.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.